

December 18, 2019

Mr. Patrick Sackville, Director of Policy
Major Projects & Partnerships
Room 281 Premier's Office
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Mr. Sackville,

On behalf of the OFA, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time you spent with us last week at Queen's Park and allowing us to share with you the priorities for Ontario's agriculture and food sector. With strong support and investments in our rural communities, we can unlock continued economic growth opportunities and drive a healthy economy that benefits all Ontarians.

Ontario's diverse and innovative agri-food industry feeds our population, fuels our rural communities and drives the provincial economy, generating more than 837,000 jobs and contributing more than \$47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. From farmers to our diverse food processing industry, our agri-food sector is a powerhouse of possibilities.

Since our meeting on December 9th, we are extremely pleased to see announcements regarding government commitment to rural infrastructure needs such as natural gas expansion as well as launch of the first Northern Ontario Residential Broadband Project, part of the Next Generation Network Program. We were also encouraged by the discussion regarding the potential to explore opportunities through Ontario Hydro with respect to bringing broadband and connectivity to rural communities across Ontario and look forward to exploring the possibilities for an efficient and rapid expansion. Both natural gas and broadband are crucial to economic development and retention of business in rural Ontario.

OFA looks forward to continuing the conversation with you and working together to strengthen Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President